

# BOARD OF EDUCATION OF DORCHESTER COUNTY BOARD CLIPS

October 29, 2020

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Philip W. Rice  
President

Laura H. Layton  
Vice President

Glenn L. Bramble

Sheri R. Hubbard

LeOtha N. Hull

W. David Bromwell  
Superintendent

## STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Amanda Bair  
Cambridge-South Dorchester  
High School

Madison Frase  
North Dorchester High School

The Dorchester County Board of Education does not discriminate in admission, access, treatment or employment in its program and activities on the basis of race, sex, national origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or any other basis prohibited by law. Appropriate accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. This information is available in alternative formats upon request. Concerns regarding the above are directed to Beth Wilson, Director of Operations, Dorchester County Public Schools, 700 Glasgow Street, Cambridge, MD 21613, 410-228-4747, ext. 1015.

## Student Mission Pledge

I will finish my program of study and become college and career ready!

## OVERVIEW OF PRESENT STATUS OF THE DCPS RE-OPENING PLAN

Superintendent Bromwell presented the status of the DCPS Re-Opening Plan:

### *How We Got Here!*

- Continued collaboration between DCPS and DCHD
- How quick COVID turned on Dorchester County
- Disappointing – We were moving within schools positively

### *DCPS Timetable to Decision to Revert Back to Phase I of the DCPS Re-Opening Plan:*

- Friday, October 16, 2020 - conversation with Mr. Harrell, both of us were worried about positivity rate numbers growing in Dorchester. We agreed to continue to monitor and stay in touch.
- Wednesday, October 21, 2020—update with Mr. Harrell—our positivity rate had grown tremendously in Dorchester, 3rd highest in the state. Both of us agreed that drastic action needed to take place to ensure safety for all involved.
- Communication with: DCPS Executive Team—DCPS Principals—DE President—ALL BOE Members—DCPS Staff— MD State Schools Superintendent— Dorchester County Community were notified in this order from 6:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

### *Next Steps*

- Monitor our Dorchester County Positivity Rate
- DCPS would begin these transitions as soon as COVID rate numbers decline.
  1. Prepare for return of All DCPS staff into ALL buildings.
  2. Small groups return to schools the following week: 12<sup>th</sup> grade CTE, Special Needs, non-connectivity students
  3. Transition to Phase I.5: A and B weeks, groups above, Pre-K, Kindergarten, 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students
  4. Transition to Phase II: A and B weeks, all DCPS grades 50% capacity
  5. Transition to Phase III: Normal DCPS daily school operations

- The Dorchester County Health Department will offer free COVID testing at school sites for the weeks of November 9 and November 16, 2020. Testing will be offered to DCPS staff, students, and parents
- DCPS will complete random temperature checks to staff and students throughout the school day.
- DCPS COVID dashboard will be offered on the DCPS website for COVID positive #'s for students and staff. Of course, confidentiality will remain in place for those testing positive. They will give up to date DCPS COVID transparency #'s for students and parents, to the community.
- November 9, 2020—target date for DCPS staff returning to building assignments—based on health department recommendations.

Ms. Regina Teat, Director of Leadership and School Improvement, presented the adjusted virtual instruction schedule for instructional minutes:

- High schools will follow, as closely as possible, the bell schedule. High school has 90 minute blocks. 60 minutes is synchronous, 30 minutes may be asynchronous – students can stay engaged with the teacher for support during the 30 minutes.
- Middle schools will follow, as closely as possible, the bell schedule. Middle school classes are 60 minutes. Forty-five minutes will be synchronous, with the teacher. Middle school allows 10-15 minutes asynchronous for conferencing with the teacher one-on-one.
- The elementary schedule has been adjusted to provide a longer block of synchronous instruction, including asynchronous instruction, small group instruction, per the request of MSDE by December 30, 2020. The adjusted schedules are:
  - \* A.M. - Grades 1-5 – 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (4½ hrs.) – synchronous instruction; ½ hr. lunch; specials.
  - \* P.M. - 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Small groups, interventions, office hours
  - \* PreK-K - 3 hours synchronous instruction. Will include specials – Art, Music, and Physical Education

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION**

Dr. Casey Scott, Deputy Health Officer, Dorchester County Health Department, presented the following:

*Understanding the state of metrics.*

*Positivity Rate = Percent Positive = Percent Positive Rate*

*Positivity Rate*  

$$\frac{\# \text{ of positive tests}}{\# \text{ of total tests}} \times 100\%$$

*Positivity Rate – What does it tell us?*

- Level of community transmission
- If our testing is adequate

*Case Rate*

*7-day average of new cases*  

$$\frac{\text{7-day average of new cases}}{\text{county population}} \times 100,000$$

*Case Rate – What does it tell us?*

- Allows us to view trends of new cases
- The per 100,000 lets us compare counties across the state

*Other things to keep in mind*

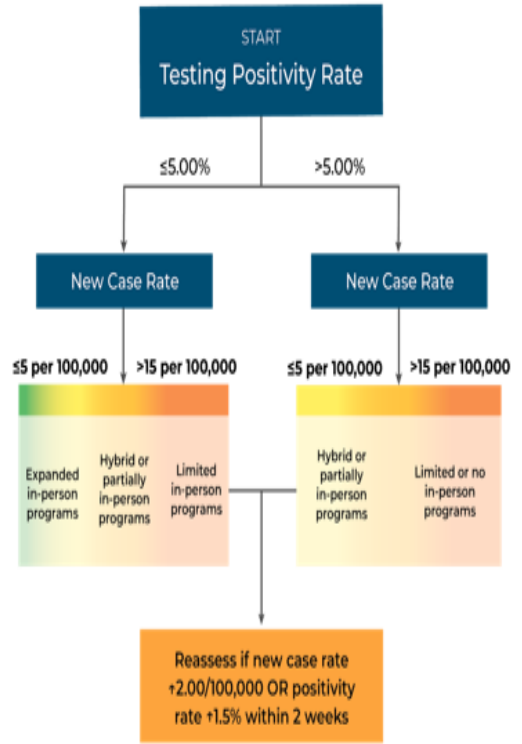
- Isolated incidents vs community spread
- Mitigation factors
- Importance of contact tracing

Mr. Roger Harrell, Dorchester County Health Officer, presented the following health metrics that guided the school reopening discussion.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>POSITIVITY</u>	<u>RATE / 100,000</u>
10/14/2020	3.40%	11.6
10/15/2020	4.00%	12.1
10/16/2020	4.00%	13.9
10/17/2020	4.80%	16.1
10/18/2020	4.70%	20.6
10/19/2020	5.00%	21.5
10/20/2020	6.10%	23.7
10/21/2020	6.10%	30.9
10/22/2020	6.00%	31.8
10/23/2020	6.00%	36.7
10/24/2020	5.60%	36.2
10/25/2020	5.80%	36.7
10/26/2020	5.60%	36.7
10/27/2020	5.20%	35.8
10/28/2020	5.70%	30.4

<u>DATE</u>	<u>POSITIVITY</u>	<u>RATE / 100,000</u>
10/14/2020	3.40%	11.6
10/28/2020	5.70%	30.4
Difference	+2.30%	+18.8

*Decision Parameter: Reassess if new case rate +2.00/100,000 or positivity rate +1.5% within 2 weeks*



**BOARD ACTIONS**

The Board approved the following:

- Awarded the security fence and safety gates for the portable classrooms at Maple Elementary and Mace’s Lane Middle Schools to Anderson Fence of Marion Station, MD in the amount of \$27,645.00

**PERSONNEL ITEMS FOR October 29, 2020 NON-CERTIFICATED APPOINTMENTS**

*Gregory Jefferson*, Custodian - Second Shift  
 Mace’s Lane Middle School  
 Effective: November 9, 2020

*April Lake*, Custodian, - Second Shift  
 North Dorchester High School  
 Effective: November 2, 2020

*Khadijah Milbourne*, Educational Specialist  
 North Dorchester Middle School  
 Effective: TBD

**NON-CERTIFICATED PROMOTIONS**

*Tyshena Rolle*, from Custodian -Second Shift at Mace’s Lane Middle School to Head Custodian - Second Shift at Mace’s Lane Middle School  
 Effective: October 26, 2020

**PERSONNEL ITEMS FOR  
October 29, 2020 (cont.)**

**NON-CERTIFICATED  
TRANSFERS**

*Nicholas Foxwell*, from Custodian - Second Shift at Maple Elementary School to Custodian - Second Shift at Dorchester Career and Technology Center  
Effective: October 26, 2020

*Kathryn Crucillo*, from Instructional Assistant at Vienna Elementary School to Administrative Secretary - 12 month at Vienna Elementary School  
Effective: January 4, 2021

*Carol Hubbard*, from Educational Specialist at North Dorchester High School to Administrative Secretary at North Dorchester High School  
Effective: October 19, 2020

*Bonita Perry*, from Custodian - Second Shift at Dorchester Career and Technology Center to Custodian - Second Shift at Mace's Lane Middle School  
Effective: October 26, 2020

**NON-CERTIFICATED  
RETIREMENT**

*André Beulah*, Campus Engineer  
Cambridge-South Dorchester High School  
Effective: January 1, 2021